

June 29, 2021

**Bay County Health Department Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program Results**

***One Bay County Healthy Beaches sampling location remains under an advisory.***



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**Panama City, Fla. –** The advisories for the for the Laguna Beach (SP 2) location on Front Beach Road between Paradiso Place and Reposo Place, Panama City Beach, Panama City Beach City Pier (SP 3) location at 16101 Front Beach Road, Panama City Beach, Bid-A-Wee Beach (SP 4) location across from Argonaut Road, Panama City Beach, Panama City Beach Access #41 (SP 5) located at 11211 Front Beach Road, Panama City Beach, Carl Gray Park (SP 9) location on Collegiate Drive in Panama City, and the Beach Drive (SP 10) location at US-98 West Beach Drive, Panama City have been rescinded.

The advisory for the Dupont Bridge (SP 11) location at the end of Oakshore Drive, Panama City remains in effect.

The Bay County Health Department, Bay CHD, conducts saltwater beach water quality monitoring in accordance with the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program. Water samples are collected **twice a month between March and October**. The samples are checked for **enteric bacteria** that normally inhabit the intestinal tract of humans and animals. The presence of enteric bacteria **can be an indication of fecal pollution**, which may come from storm water runoff, pets and wildlife, and human sewage. **Poor** results are posted as an **“Advisory”** at the affected beaches.

Healthy Beaches advisories are issued **to protect swimmers from increased risk of gastrointestinal illnesses**. At a **lower occurring level**, there may also be increased risks of **upper respiratory infections, skin rashes, and ear infections**. Healthy Beach advisories are **not related to Necrotizing fasciitis**, a rare complication.



**Sampling** is done on **Mondays** with **results** on **Tuesday**, with exception of holidays. Locations that have advisories posted are resampled the following week. Results are shared at

Bay.FloridaHealth.gov, through media releases, and **real-time** on the Florida Healthy Beaches page at **FloridaHealth.gov** and **search for “Healthy Beaches”**.

Florida Healthy Beaches Program Categories are; Good = 0-35 Enterococci per 100 milliliters of marine water, Moderate = 36-70 Enterococci per 100 milliliters of marine water, and **Poor = 71** or greater Enterococci per 100 milliliters of marine water. If **levels are above 70**, **Bay CHD notifies** the local **Florida Department of Environmental Protection** for further investigation.



If you have any questions, please contact the Bay County Health Department at 850-481-4806 or visit the Department of Health's Internet Beach Water Quality website at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/healthy-environments/beach-water-quality/index.html>.

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